Amendments to the claims:

1. (cancelled).

2. (cancelled)

3. (cancelled)

4. (cancelled)

5. (cancelled)

6. (cancelled)

7. (cancelled)

8. (cancelled)

9. (cancelled)

10. (currently amended) Data protection method, ~~for protecting data elements processed by a microprocessor in a chip card from discovery by analysis of the microprocessor's electric power consumption~~ said method using a cryptographic algorithm for executing operations for processing ~~said~~ data elements so as to generate encrypted information, said method comprising:

randomly modifying the order of execution of operations from one cycle to another, a cycle being a complete execution cycle of the algorithm or an intermediate cycle of a group of operations, said operations being operations whose order of execution relative to the others does not affect the result, thereby protecting said data elements processed by a microprocessor in a chip card from discovery by analysis of the microprocessor's electric power consumption.

11. (previously presented) The protection method according to claim 10, wherein the modified order of execution of operations include permutation of bits of a message block before permutation of bits of a key, and vice versa.

12. (previously presented) The protection method according to claim 10, wherein the modified order of execution of operations include modifying the order of processing quartets making up a data element.

13. (previously presented) The protection method according to claim 10, wherein the modification of the order of execution of operations is random.

14. (new) Data protection method, said method using a cryptographic algorithm for executing operations for processing data elements so as to generate encrypted information, said method comprising:

using a symmetric cryptographic algorithm of the DES-type with a permutation step, said permutation step including a random determination of a processing order of the bits for the execution of the permutation step, thereby protecting said data elements processed by a microprocessor in a chip card from discovery by analysis of the microprocessor's electric power consumption.

15. (new) The data protection method of Claim 14 wherein the cryptographic algorithm for executing operations for processing data elements includes a group of operations executed repeatedly.